



## Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831—

October 29, 1999

Mr. Joseph Garrison  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Dear Mr. Garrison:

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE - Y-12 SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Y-12 Plant at the Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The SWEIS will address current levels of Y-12 operations and foreseeable new operations and facilities for approximately the next 10 years. The proposed action is considering an Upgrade Alternative, an Upgrade/New Construction Alternative, and a New Construction Alternative. A project-specific analysis for a proposed new Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Materials Facility is being prepared as an appendix to the Y-12 SWEIS. Two alternative locations are being analyzed for the facility, both within the Y-12 plant site boundary.

Proposed activities under the Upgrade Alternative would consist of upgrades, additions, or modifications to existing Y-12 plant processes, facilities, and infrastructure. The New Construction Alternative would satisfy the Y-12 plant long-term capability and capacity needs through the construction of new facilities. The new facilities would generally be located within the confines of the current Y-12 plant boundaries. The Upgrade/New Construction Alternative would include a combination of upgrades to existing facilities and processes and newly constructed facilities to meet Y-12 currently assigned and future missions.

The proposed activities under consideration are located within the developed portion of the Y-12 Plant area. The cultural resources of the Y-12 Plant area have been inventoried and evaluated. An historic district has been proposed which encompasses the original Y-12 Plant and consists of 72 contributing buildings and structures. Two buildings in the Y-12 Plant have also been recognized as potential National Historic Landmarks as individual properties. Much of the Y-12 Plant has been disturbed by past activities and the potential for discovery of archaeological resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is considered low. No